

Do not allow Sinclair Broadcasting to air "Stolen Honor".

I believe in democracy. Democracy requires an electorate as well informed as possible. The broadcast of the highly biased anti-Senator Kerry "Stolen Honor" program by Sinclair Broadcasting without direct rebuttal programming chosen by the opposition on the same freely accessed airwaves is a disservice to all citizens. I strongly feel that it is your responsibility to prohibit the airing of this program which is now mandated by management to be shown on all of Sinclair's stations.

This program is not an objective news documentary, but a biased, unbalanced attack designed to sway voters rather than inform them. Just Thursday evening on ABC's Nightline major players in "Stolen Honor" have been shown to have manufactured false claims, smearing Senator Kerry in ads that ran earlier this year which had serious effect on opinion. When false information is presented as fact and no equal balance is placed on those assertions democracy cannot function. The power of biased programming cannot be allowed to dictate unchecked on the public airwaves. This power is clearly an example of the hazards of media consolidation that endanger the democratic process.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. All voters want to see their candidate prevail. But all true citizens should want that victory to lie on the foundation of fairness, facts, free discussion and balanced presentation. Unfairness results in rage in the hearts of those who are betrayed, and division in our citizenry.

"Stolen Honor" is not a news documentary as it is claimed. It is a one sided political commercial. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Do not allow this program to air.

America needs open, frank, honest, good faith discussion on issues through which we can all be well informed. We could then make decisions in good spirit together for the common good. That is not the world we live in today, with shallow commercials, lopsided programs, and too little public discussion. We need your stewardship over the airwaves now more than ever.

Thank you.

cc: Senator Cantwell, Senator Murray, Senator McCain, Representative Dunn, Seattle Times